

RICHARD HELMS

The Director of Central Intelligence

Richard McGarrah Helms became the Director of Central Intelligence on 30 June 1966. He had been the Deputy Director since 28 April 1965. The oath of office was administered in the East Room, The White House, following remarks by Lyndon B. Johnson, the President of the United States. President Johnson on 18 June 1966 had announced that Mr. Helms would be the new Director and on 20 June he sent the nomination to the United States Senate. Mr. Helms appeared before the Armed Services Committee in a public hearing on 23 June and the Committee by unanimous vote approved the nomination; on 28 June the Senate of the United States unanimously confirmed the nomination.

On 30 June 1966 just prior to Mr. Helms taking the oath of office in the East Room of The White House, President Johnson said:

"It is a very special pleasure to me, to one who has spent thirty-five years in the Federal Government (not always under the protective arm of the Secret Service or the Civil Service) to see one of the high positions in this Government filled by a man who has devoted his entire

career to the public service of his country. Dick Helms, the man we are naming to this post, is such a man.

"Although he has spent more than twenty years in public life attempting to avoid publicity, he has never been able to conceal the fact that he is one of the most trusted and most able and most dedicated professional career men in this Capitol. No man has ever come to this high critical office with better qualifications.

"I think it was Patrick Henry who said, 'The battle is not to the strong alone, it is to the vigilant and to the active and to the brave,' and it is to Dick Helms and to the Agency that he will now head that we must look for this vigilance. His own record and the past achievements of his Agency give us full confidence in the future operation of the Central Intelligence Agency with judgment, with intelligence and above all with great public integrity."

Mr. Helms was born in St. Davids, Pennsylvania, 30 March 1913. He attended Carteret Academy in Orange, New Jersey; Le Rosey School in Rolle/Gstaad, Switzerland; and the Realgymnasium of Freiburg i/Breisgau, Germany. He was graduated in 1935 from Williams College where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. While in college he was

editor-in-chief of the yearbook, GULIELMENSIAN, and also editor-in-chief of the college newspaper, THE WILLIAMS RECORD. He was a correspondent in Europe for the United Press. Mr. Helms interviewed Hitler, and his story "Hitler and Mars Incorporated" was published in the INDIANAPOLIS TIMES. In 1937 he joined the Indianapolis Times Publishing Company and later became its national advertising manager. Mr. Helms was a member of the Literary Club in Indianapolis.

During the winter of 1942, he was active in the public relations efforts of the Navy Relief Society fund-raising drive in New York City.

Mr. Helms was commissioned Lieutenant (jg), United States Naval Reserve on 1 July 1942. After attending Naval Training School, Harvard University, he was assigned as Operations Officer, Headquarters, Eastern Sea Frontier. In August, 1943 he was assigned to the Office of Strategic Services and served in Washington, England, France, and Germany.

Upon discharge from the United States Naval Reserve in 1946, Mr. Helms was a civilian employee in the Strategic Services Unit, War Department, which was the successor organization to a major part of the Office of Strategic Services. He was employed there until the establishment of the Central Intelligence Group, to which

he was transferred. He was then assigned to the Central Intelligence Agency when it was established on 18 September 1947. In August of 1952 he was appointed by General Walter Bedell Smith, then Director of Central Intelligence, as Deputy to the Deputy Director for Plans. On 17 February 1962, he was appointed Deputy Director for Plans by John A. McCone.

Mr. Helms and Julia Bretzman Shields of Indianapolis, Indiana, were married in 1939. Their family includes one son, Dennis, and a son and a daughter born to Mrs. Helms during a previous marriage.